REMARKS

Applicant's invention relates to a time-stamping protocol for time-stamping digital documents. A document author creates a time stamp receipt for the document. The time stamp receipt includes identifying data associated with the document (e.g., a unique hash value), and a time indication. The document author then forwards the time stamp receipt to a trusted outside agency (e.g., a time-stamping authority – TSA), which then validates the receipt by comparing the time indication in the time stamp receipt sent by the author to the current time. If the TSA deems the time stamp receipt valid, it cryptographically binds the time stamp receipt by performing a binding operation (e.g., using a private key). A copy of the bound time stamp receipt is then sent to the document author, and may later be used to verify the document.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Haber et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,136,647). Claim 1 explicitly requires, "creating a time stamp receipt including identifying data . . . and a time indication . . . [and] . . . transmitting said time stamp receipt to an outside agency." In other words, the author transmits *both* the identifying data associated with the document and the time indication to the outside agency. The patent to Haber, however, does not teach that the document author transmits a time indication with a request. Rather, Haber teaches creating the time indication independently of the author after receiving the request. *Haber*, col. 4, ll. 6-11. Whatever information is sent to the TSA by the author does not include a time indication. Therefore, the patent to Haber fails to anticipate claim 13 under § 102. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claim 13, and its dependent claims 14-18.

Applicant also traverses the Examiner's rejection to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Haber in view of the article to Takura. Claim 1, like claim 13, requires "receiving a time stamp receipt at an outside agency, [the] time stamp receipt including identifying data associated with the document and a time indication." For the reasons stated above, Haber fails to teach that the TSA receives a time indication from the author. Therefore,

the § 103 rejection of claim 1 fails as a matter of law. However, the article to Takura also fails to teach or suggest the TSA receiving a time indication. In Takura, a client (i.e., the author) sends a time stamping request to a server at the TSA. The request does not include a time indication. Rather, the server transmits the <u>time at which the server received the request</u> in a time stamp token returned to the client. *Takura*, pg. 88, col. 1, ¶3. Simply put, neither Haber nor Takura teach or suggest, alone or in combination, claim 1. Therefore, the § 103 rejection necessarily fails. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claim 1, and its dependent claims 2-12.
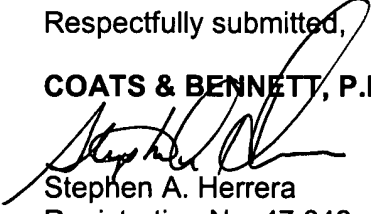
The Examiner also rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Haber in view of the article to Takura. However, claim 19 contains language that requires a time indication to be included in the creation of a time receipt transmitted to the outside agency. For the reasons stated above, neither Haber nor Takura, alone or in combination, teach or suggest claim 19. Therefore, the § 103 rejection to claim 19 fails. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claim 19, and its dependent claims 20-30.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

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